

**EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence School Committee**

**East Providence City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue (Conference Room A and Council Chamber)**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**February 12, 2013**

**Open Session**

**Mr. Monteiro, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.**

**School Committee members present:**

**Elizabeth Clupny, Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Richard Pimentel. Also present:**

**Dr. John DeGoes, Interim Superintendent, Robert M. Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.**

**Motion by E. Cluny to convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing:**

**Personnel - R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1), Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2),**

**Litigation/Pending Litigation -R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2), seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to return to Public Session, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 5-0**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Report Executive Session Votes - no votes were taken**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & a Moment of Silence were observed.**

### **Student/Staff Recognition**

- **Mr. Bob Capello from the Lions Club presented the winners of the Lions Club “Imagine Peace” Contest.**
- **Recognition of Robotics Team, students, and teachers.**

**John DeGoes reported there have been significant problems in school buildings: 20 classrooms at the high school had to be closed for two days due to flooding; last week crews plowed out after the snow storm; there were more flooded classrooms, materials destroyed; staff cleaned rooms, corrected heating problems in order to be ready for school to open this morning. Thanks to Ed Catelli, Facilities Director, and the staff he leads which did yeoman’s work for the city and school department.**

**Student Liaison Report – Joshua Concepcion presented his report.**

**Report on City of East Providence Budget Commission**

**Dr. DeGoes reported that at the last meeting, the Budget Commission meeting, they voted to bid out the work necessary to enhance school safety issues; \$40,000 has been allocated for cameras; after going out to bid, we will submit information to the Budget Commission for approval and action at this week's meeting.**

### **Public Comment I**

**Fred Rybka – requested information regarding a date for Oldham parents to walk through Meadowcrest School and for Meadowcrest parents to visit Waddington School. Dr. DeGoes responded that School Committee representatives were appointed to a committee and have met once to talk about the work to be done at these schools; timely reports will be received through Mr. Ferreira; everything we said would happen will happen; a walk through will be scheduled at a time which will not be disruptive to the operation of the school and he will be working through the issues with Mr. Ferreira and the principals.**

**Alice Martin, Pawtucket Avenue asked for more information on flooded classrooms at the high school; why did the pipes burst; is it usual, what are future plans? Dr. DeGoes explained that the old heating was affected by cold weather; due to the loss of electricity, some pipes froze and ruptured. Mr. Catelli agreed that the lack of electricity caused units to freeze up and caused unfortunate problems with three unit heaters. Discussion if covered by insurance.**

**Mr. Ferreira said no electricity, no heat, and no plan. Mr. Catelli explained there are no generators in the elementary schools, which can cause big problems when electricity goes out; generators cost money; generators could be made part of the FEMA package and he can include that; private possessions of teachers are not covered by insurance. Mr. Ferreira asked to negotiate that with our insurer, The Interlocal Trust; he felt that we should not continue to have teachers losing their personal items which they bring in to help teach kids. Dr. DeGoes responded that teachers are made aware they run the risk of losing personal items because we only cover up to \$300 and cannot guarantee more than that. Mr. Ferreira asked that we look into how much more it would cost to be able to cover even half the amount of teachers' possessions.**

## **Interim Superintendent's Report**

### **Personnel Report on Resignations/Leaves of Absence**

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

**Mary-Ann                      Duval-Resource                      Teacher-RMS-Effective  
01/22/2013-following LOA for remainder of 12/13 School Year**

**Joanne Hall-Grade 2 Teacher-KH-Effective 01/25/2013  
(following 2yr LOA)**

**Michele                      Cronin -Social                      Studies                      Teacher-RMS-Effective**

**02/01/2013-following 2yr LOA**

**Jennifer Carlson-School Nurse-MMS-Effective 13/14 School Year**

**Samantha Goldman-Grade 4 Teacher-Oldham-Effective 01/30/2013**

**Bradley Wilson -Special Education-MMS-Effective 02/05/2013**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Sandra Forand -Principal RMS-Effective 2013-14 School Year (Year 3)**

**Stephanie Boocock-Reading Teacher-RMS (yr2) - Effective 13/14 School Year**

**Gretchen Lopez -Reading Teacher-RMS (yr. 2)-Effective 13/14 School Year**

**Jennifer Marcello-Occupational Therapist-White/Hennessey-Effective 02/25/2013**

**Kevin Monagle (Yr. 2)-Math Dept. Head-EPHS-Effective 13/14 School Year**

## **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

**Andrea Sprout Kindergarten Teacher-Waddington-Approximately 04/22/2013-13 weeks**

**Cindy Gregoire Grade 4 Teacher-Francis-Approximately 04/26/2013-13 weeks**

**Jessica Vincent -Spec Ed/Pre-K-Meadowcrest-Effective 03/01/2013**

**RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN) –Ms. Deb Belanger of RIPIN attended; she explained that RIPIN is looking forward to working with East Providence to provide training to develop parent leaders; parents working collaboratively with schools and improving working together with families. An informational session will be held on February 27th at RMS to answer questions regarding the five week training which will include professional development with staff; teachers and parents getting the same information to improve communication. The meeting will also provide information to people who might be interested in training as to how to run a meeting, bylaws, advisory groups; interactive work in teams; they are looking for 4-5 parents to build on what already exists.**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Ms. Clupny to table the minutes of the meeting held on January 10, 2013, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

## **Requisitions – Bill List**

### **Warrants #**

**1292 2/4/13 \$ 2,980.45**

**1293 2/6/13 \$ 68,011.51**

**1294 2/6/13 \$ 137,301.52**

**1295 2/6/13 \$ 250.00**

**1296 2/7/13 \$2,094,774.53**

**1297 2/7/13 \$ 289,767.54**

**Motion by Mr. Pimentel to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

### **Action Items**

## **PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS**

**Julianne Socci Business Teacher-EPHS-Effective 2/4/13**

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**Home School Requests – A motion was made by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.**

**East Providence Local Advisory Committee for Special Education Chair presented a list of new members; motion by Mr. Pimentel to**

**approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.**

## **Finance Report**

**Dr. DeGoes reported that 21% of revenues have been received (November to January); expenditures at 26% of funds allocated; the budget is pretty much right on target. Mr. Monteiro requested that School Committee receive monthly reports. Dr. DeGoes requested that the controller provide that information to School Committee members.**

## **Old Business**

**Superintendent Search Status – Mr. Monteiro advised that the first round of interviews of candidates has been completed. The Interview Committee was made up of a representative from RI Department of Education, the Budget Commission, a RI Superintendent, and Heather Martino, Interim Director of Human Resources and Mr. Monteiro, Chairman of the School Committee. The Committee is reviewing the candidates, hopes to have the decision of the committee shortly as to how to move forward and looking for a March 1st start date depending on availability of final candidate.**

## **New Business**

**PTA Reports – Fred Rybka requested that the website for Oldham School be upgraded and asked how and what is the procedure to get**



that done. Dr. DeGoes explained there have been many problems this year with the consolidation of the Technology Department for the entire city; the Director is only one person serving both the city and schools; for a good part of this year, help has not been available to us with only one person managing the department. It is expected that open positions will be filled soon; he asked that a message be relayed through the Superintendent's Office or Technology Department.

Heather Foley from Orlo Avenue School reported on two activities: March 7th Book Night and the Relay for Life event.

Izilda Teves, Orlo Avenue School, thanked Ed Catelli for starting the Tools for Schools Program at Orlo and stated that Mr. Catelli is also looking into problems of insufficient parking at the school. Orlo has asked for technical assistance regarding the server and email but was told there are about 500 requests for technology help/assistance, but that the city is first. Her concern was that the PTA had paid \$1500 for technology which is not working; they do not want to spend money for nothing.

Dr. DeGoes stated this has been ongoing; he shares the same frustrations; computers down in our office, teachers without Smart Boards for a long period of time, not adequate personnel to do the work; Principals have placed work orders; he will speak to IT Director.

**Mr. Monteiro asked about filling the positions. Mr. Conley said that is about a 6-9 month backlog of work; he asked Mr. Monteiro to bring to the attention of the Budget Commission.**

**Mr. Ferreira concerned about teachers not having the equipment they need to teach and the PTA spending money for equipment to educate kids that does not work; he would like this to be fixed.**

**Mr. Monteiro asked for this to be done in a productive manner in an effort to move forward by contacting the Technology Department to get some idea about the work orders. Mr. Conley commented that the reality is that the amount of staff is not sufficient to meet the needs of the city; can we advocate getting one person strictly for the School Department to complete time sensitive requests.**

**Dr. DeGoes reported that we can identify staff who are responsible for the schools and staff responsible for the city.**

**Kat Waterbury, H/R Director provided an update; two new hires will begin on Monday; she has heard the discussion and will work on it.**

**Ms. Clupny asked if we can prorate reimbursement for Orlo PTA to do something for lost months; not fair they paid for it and could not use it.**

**Dr. DeGoes said we have the same problem with Smart Boards; we have Career Technical Center classes which cannot run because the equipment is not in working order.**

**Mr. Ferreira stated that the repair tickets start at police, fire, highway, with schools at the bottom of the list and if we do not make noise, will be at the bottom of list every day; we should be doing more for students and staff.**

## **Public Comment II**

**Mr. Monteiro announced that the City Council requested to resume streaming of their meetings and the School Department will also ask to have School Committee meetings included.**

**Jen Enos and Laurie Brown, Co-Chairs of the East Providence Local Advisory Committee said they were confused about the upcoming RIPIN training to get people involved. They already have about 20 people involved and encourage all to come to their meeting; RIPIN assists in developing an LAC ; EP group already has bylaws; they thought they would be working together in more effective ways.**

**Dr. DeGoes said there was no intent to create a new LAC; the RIPIN group represents throughout the state regarding other aspects to improve on.**

**Steve Prew thanked Ed Catelli for always being very responsive to phone calls and he was happy to hear the recognition about teachers spending money for materials and using personal property at schools.**

**City Council member, Chrissy Rossi stated that as liaison to the School Committee, the School Committee should call her about not having enough IT support; she will contact the City Manager to assist to help make meaningful changes. Top priority is that the IT Department needs help on the school side.**

**Alice Martin asked if the School Department has an updated personnel policy so that people know what is expected of them and they of you. She asked but was told the policy was not available; people in positions should be aware of what they are supposed to do. She was disappointed with EP being last; all need to respect themselves, teachers, and administrators and tighten up personnel policies; she wants kids to learn and feels badly about the school system since it seems no one cares.**

## **Announcements**

### **School Committee Meetings:**

**February 26, 2013 to announce layoffs before March 1st.**

**March 12, 2013 - NECAP report on how schools performed.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Pimentel to adjourn, seconded by Mr.**

**Conley. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee**